

**REMARKS**

Claims 12 - 14, 25 - 27, and 29 - 30 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 - 11, 15 - 24 are withdrawn. Claims 12 - 14, 25 - 26 and 30 are amended.

Claims 12 - 14, 25 - 27, and 29 - 30 were rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 3,343,252 (Reesor) in view of 3M VMB™ pamphlet and U. S. Patent No. 3,937,641 (Kushner et al.).

The terminology "end of the pipe" in the claims has now been replaced by either "terminal end" or "extremities." Hopefully at least one of these terms or phrases is deemed acceptable by the Examiner. If the Examiner would prefer any other term or phrase for the "end of the pipe" as described in the subject application, his suggestion would be appreciated.

Claim 12 has now been amended to require that each portion of the pair of pipes has a squared cut terminal end and the pair of the pipe squared cut terminal ends are positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other wherein the pair of the pipes squared cut terminal end essentially abut each other. Claim 12 further requires that a strip of the double-sided adhesive, closed cell, acrylic foam tape is applied around and over the exterior surfaces of each of the abutting squared cut terminal ends and wherein the strip of double-sided adhesive tape has a first end and second end and the second end overlaps and contacts the first end. The Examiner states that Kushner et al. provides evidence that is commonly known in the art to apply the double-sided tape 28 only around the exterior surfaces of a pipe end 16 wherein the double-sided tape has a first end and a second end and the second end forms an overlap of the first end around the pipe end. The Examiner states that Figure 2 of Kushner et al. shows an axial overlap of the first end and the second end of the tape. However, Kushner et al. only shows that it is known in the art to apply double-sided tape around the exterior surfaces of one pipe end. The other pipe end in Kushner is connected telescopically and therefore the tape is around the interior surface of the other pipe. Kushner et al. does not show, disclose or, suggest the use of double-sided tape around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutting terminal

ends of the pipe. Further, Kushner et al. does not show or disclose the tape having a first end and a second end wherein the second end of the tape overlaps and contacts the first end. Reesor does not show, disclose, or suggest a pair of pipes with ends abutting each other.

Claim 13 has now been amended to require a coupling having clampable ends wherein the clampable ends are positioned and secured together over the overlap of the tape. None of the prior art show, disclose, or suggest this feature. Reesor only shows a sleeve that is crimped in a middle section. Regarding the Examiner's response to the arguments where the Applicant states that Reesor teaches away from claim 13. The Examiner cites In re Beattie that simply if there are differences between two references, it is insufficient to establish that such references teaches away from any combinations thereof. However, Beattie does not apply with regard to the Kushner et al. reference because in the Kushner et al. reference itself, in column 2, lines 54 - 56, Kushner explicitly states that "the tape 28 is wound so that a space 32 is maintained between the winding and that there is no overlapping of the tape." Kushner's statement teaches away from the present invention. It is unknown how the Examiner can find overlapping of the tape when Kushner, himself, says that there is no overlapping of the tape.

Claim 13 further requires the coupling have clampable ends that are positioned and secured together over the overlap of the tape. None of the prior art show, disclose, or suggest any clampable ends of a coupling positioned over an overlap of the tape.

Claim 14 has now been amended to require that the pair of squared cut terminal ends are butted as close together as possible and a portion of the double-sided adhesive, closed cell, acrylic foam tape is secured to each of the exterior surfaces of each of the adjacent pipes for providing a sealed joint. None of the prior art shows, discloses, or suggests this feature.

Claim 25 has now been amended to replace the term "end" with "extremities." Claim 25 further requires that a sealed joint has a pair of thin walls of metallic pipes having axial lengths with smooth interior and exterior surfaces along the entire axial length, and each pipe is positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other forming abutting extremities. Having a smooth interior surface along the entire axial length is an important feature of the invention because it allows for bundles of tubing to be snaked through the pipes. Claim 25 further requires a tape wherein a portion of the tape is wrapped around the exterior surfaces of each of the butting extremities for providing a leak-proof joint and smooth interior surface at the joint. Claim 25 also requires a coupling having clampable ends clamped and secured together over the tape. None of the prior art show, disclose, or suggest these features.

Claim 26 has been amended to now require that a second end of the precut tape overlaps over and contacts a first end of the precut tape around the pipe extremities forming an overlap approximately 3/16 inch to 1/4 inch long and at least one of the clampable ends has a tongue extending therefrom wherein the tongue is positioned directly over the overlap.

Claim 29 has been amended to require that the double-sided adhesive tape is applicable on the pair of pipe extremities at a temperature as low as 32° Farenheit.

Claim 30 now requires that the pair of pipes have a terminal end abutted in an end-to-end relationship wherein the double-sided adhesive tape is applied around the exterior surfaces of each of the abutted terminal ends of the pair of metallic pipes wherein the adhesive tape has an axial length and the axial length of the tape is positioned essentially parallel to the abutted terminal ends and further that the adhesive foam tape has one end overlapping and secured to an opposing end of the tape forming an overlap and the coupling has a pair of clampable ends secured together and tightened over the overlap.

None of these features are shown or disclosed or even suggested by the prior art of a combination thereof. Therefore, this Amendment should place this case in condition for passing to issue. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 20, 2004  
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